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CORRESPONDENCE CLUB OF AMERICA

THE INKSPOT

Volume 1 Number 1



## WELCOME TO JUNIOR COIN NEWS

### THE INKSPOT

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(1967-1976)

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### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS

#### ISSUE 2

The Wide World of Coins	2
From the Desk of the President	3
JNCCA: A History	4
How to Prepare and Deliver a	7

#### Coin Talk

A Bicentennial Guide to Philadelphia	8
Private Gold Coinage of the West	9
The First Coins Issued by the U.S.	13

#### Mint

Coin Detecting	15
Tokens of the City of New York	17
TRENDS	18
The Nevada Bicentennial Medal	19
The Confederate Cent of 1861	20
Coin Quips	22
Classified Ads	22
Membership Form	23

### JNCCA MEETING AT CONVENTION

The JNCCA will hold its meeting during the ANA Convention on Friday, August 27 at 1:30 P.M. For complete information, please see page 3.

## THE WIDE WORLD OF COINS

By Alan Boyce (R-152)

Several coin collecting friends have asked me, when I mention that I collect foreign coins, where I get them from. There are many ways of starting and building a collection of world coins, and I'd like to offer a few suggestions.

An easy and relatively inexpensive way to obtain some foreign coins is by getting them for the country itself. If you visit some foreign places, be sure to bring some coins home. This way, you'll be getting the coins for face value instead of paying a premium. Or, if someone you know is going to visit another country, ask them to bring some coins back for you.

Another method is to buy a bulk lot of foreign coins from a dealer. They are usually sold by the pound or by the hundred. This way, you'll get a lot of coins at about 5¢ apiece. (1 pound costs from six to ten dollars, depending on the quality and how many different coins there are, and contains nearly 200 coins. It's usually best to pay the slightly higher price because you'll get more silver coins, older coins, a crown or two, and more different types. The extras make good trading material.)

There are many foreign coin dealers who issue price lists, and many coins can be found after looking through several such lists. A major attraction of world coins is their lower cost. Even the uncirculated coins are cheap.

There are many ways to collect world coins. You can collect coins of a certain country. Some countries, like France and England, have many possessions, colonies, and territories - you might find it interesting to include coins issued by them as well. Another challenge is to collect a coin from every country. Or, you might decide to collect by topic. Under this method, a person collects only coins with birds, ships, animals, kings, or whatever category he/she chooses. The different ways to collect foreign coins are only limited to your imagination!

As for myself, every time I buy foreign coins, I try to get some from countries I don't already have, while also wanting the most interesting ones possible. I try to get the most interesting designs, and preferably in uncirculated condition. If the same design appears on several different-sized coins, I choose the largest one simply because the design can be seen in more detail. With foreign coins there is also a wide range of coinage metals, which adds to the beauty of a coin. Just taking a glance through my collection, I have coins showing such different subjects as a ship, a starfish, a llama, an eagle, a star, drums, lions, horses, antelopes, elephants, cows, trees, mountains, tractors, pineapples, birds, and people. With as many diverse subjects, world coins offer something to interest everyone!

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

ANA CONVENTION - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

As previously announced, the JNCCA will hold a meeting at the August 1976 American Numismatic Assn. (ANA) Convention in New York. The meeting has been scheduled for Friday, August 27 at 1:30 P.M. Non-members are most welcome to attend. Those who plan to come to the meeting are asked to contact me as soon as possible (444 Edge Hill Road North Hills, Pa. 19038). Mrs. Florence Schook, who is coordinating the junior activities at the convention will be on hand at our meeting and promises "some surprises for your membership and guests." We are lining up one or two other prominent numismatists, and it should be most enjoyable experience for all. Following is the tentative schedule of other junior events, as compiled by Mrs. Schook:

Tuesday, August 24

- Open for Young Numismatist (YN) Assignment and Page Coordination
- YN orientation and general discussion throughout the day.

Wednesday, August 25

- YN Workshop "Grading" Biarritz Suite 9:30 A.M.
- Educational Forum - Mr. David Cervin (slide program) 4:00 P.M.  
Topic: "The First Anno Domini Dated Coin"

Thursday, August 26

- YN Workshop - "Exhibiting" Biarritz Suite 9 A.M.
- YN Tour with Lunch - \$5 charge (YN's only) Meet in Biarritz Suite

Friday, August 27

- YN General Meeting 10 A.M. Biarritz Suite
- JNCCA Meeting 1:30 P.M. Biarritz Suite
- YN Counterfeit Detection Seminar 3:50 PM, Biarritz Suite

Saturday, August 28

- ANA YN Awards Luncheon (YN's only) 11:30 A.M. Place to be announced.

Sunday, August 29

- YN Workshop "Writing," 9:30 AM Biarritz Suite

All of the above activities are those especially planned for juniors. In addition to the above schedule, there will be a host of other events for juniors and other numismatists. These were listed in the Numismatist (August) and look quite promising. However, we hope to see many of you at both the JNCCA meeting that Friday, and also at the Grading and other workshops. One of the highlights will be the educational forum on Wednesday. Mr. David Cervin will be the speaker. Mr. Cervin, the prominent numismatist from Texas, sponsors our "Roman Coin Program" for the club, which enables members to earn a Roman coin by writing an article for the Inkspot. Mr. Cervin's program has helped the JNCCA and the Inkspot considerably, and his lecture and slides should be excellent!

Lorry Viessling, President

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JNCCA: A HISTORY  
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By Dean Hansell (R-1)

The Junior Numismatic Correspondence Club of America was founded in May of 1967, though the first bulletin came out in March of '67 (an undated and unofficial one). The organization was founded by the writer at the bidding of a number of numismatists who I had been corresponding with, many of whom subsequently became members. The first bulletin was written on one page and contained two classified ads, three facts about coins, and a statement of objectives.

The organization's objectives, according to that first bulletin, were to "further the knowledge of numismatics and to create friendships by way of mail." I assumed editorship of the bulletin, which at that time was bi-monthly and averaged two pages in length. John Colby became the group's first secretary-treasurer.

In May of 1967, at the time of the club's official formation, there were six members. We also enlisted our first honorary member, Jim Johnson of Coin World.

With the third issue, an auction of sorts had begun as did a section for trading coins. At this time there was one other numismatic correspondence organization in existence - the now defunct Numismatic Correspondents of America which had about sixty members.

Due to complaints, the club's name was changed from the Junior Correspondence Club of America to the Junior Numismatic Correspondence Club of America in January of 1968.

In May of 1968, the first anniversary of the JNCCA, there were 27 regular members, 3 honoraries, and Fred Wersan had taken over the position of secretary-treasurer as a result of the resignation of John Colby. The bulletin at this time had reached a height of five pages, and a library had been formed.

After that May issue, the club entered a period of crisis where disbanding looked imminent. No bulletin was issued until January 1969. At that time a proposed constitution and a slate of officers had been recommended. A number of goals were also outlined and a slate of officers were to attempt to carry them out. Of these goals, ten out of twelve to date have been achieved to some degree or other, the other goals being: an error coin "lending library," and JNCCA meetings throughout the country.

The elections were held and in April of 1969 Fred Wersan became the first President with Dave Lyons Vice-President, and Rich Lweeney Secretary-Treasurer. Another early officer was Bill Nawrocki who was design editor of the bulletin.

In August of 1969, the first business meeting of the JNCCA was held in Philadelphia at the ANA Convention with five members in attendance. This group discussed library policy, launched a membership drive, began a program of advertising, and discussed naming the bulletin.

(Continued on page 5 )

## JNCCA: A HISTORY (Continued)

The Inkspot was finally selected as the publication's name, winning out over such names as the Herald, Flipside, and Junior Coin Trader. Our club seal was also designed to accompany the new name (a computer at Michigan State University began reproducing them one day to the amazement of Michigan State computer programmers).

1970 saw the re-election of Fred Wersan, Dave Lyons, and Rich Sweeney, as President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. In May of 1970, I resigned as bulletin editor and though two additional bulletins were issued during that year, the club faced its second crisis prompted by apathy.

Lester Givoux assumed the presidency of an ailing organization in 1971 with Kevin Angley as Secretary-Treasurer. Lester put out the Inkspot monthly until Kevin Angley took over in October of '71.

1974 officers were Dennis Hak, Kevin Hadden, and Lorry Kiesling as President, Vice-President, and Sec.-Treas., respectively. Lorry continued editorship.

Lorry Kiesling became President in 1975. Leslie Brown was elected Vice-President, and Steve Smith became Secretary-Treasurer. Connie Somerfeld assumed the job of editor.

Lorry Kiesling was re-elected in 1976. Larry Hamble became Vice-President, and Connie Somerfeld became Sec.-Treas. and continued as editor. Today, the JNCCA is the largest and oldest junior numismatic organization that is independent in the entire world.

(Continued on page 6.)

JNCCA: A HISTORY  
(Continued)

As any historian worth his salt will tell you, a history is only useful if it tells you something. Perhaps the only generalization I can make about the history of the JNCCA is that once the organization came close to disbanding and twice under strong leadership, the club got back on its feet. This illustrates the absolute dependency a small organization has on its officers for it is they that will determine the course of that group. The Junior Numismatic Correspondence Club of America has been fortunate with its officers; I only hope this will continue.

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## HOW TO PREPARE AND DELIVER A COIN TALK

By Paul Johnson (P-94), a former

Sec.-Treas. of the JNCCA, has won

is welcomed and invited to return. The speaker must be knowledgeable in his field. The motto of the Boy Scouts "Be

Prepared" certainly applies to coin talk speakers. Research

your subject! Read and study

everything available and make notes. Interests can come from a list of all material

interesting without unnecessary dates or data.

It is possible to start with just one beautiful coin, medal, or other numismatic item. What aroused your curiosity in this piece and how did you find it? Where was it issued and why? Does it portray an event, a great person, a particular historical period? Answer these and other such questions and you will have the nucleus for a talk.

Depending on one's ability as a speaker, there are several methods of delivery. The method most often used is that of small cards that will fit in the palm of the hand. The main points are entered on these cards and enlarged upon as the talk progresses. This makes for an easy and interesting delivery with very little confusion or hesitation.

It is important for each speaker to learn the proper pronunciation of names, places, numismatic terms, and to make a worthwhile attempt at good sentence structure. Delivery should be clearly directed to the audience, not to the ceiling or floor. A good rule is to speak mainly to those persons toward the rear of the audience. The very act of facing an audience creates a degree of nervous tension in almost everyone. A good knowledge of the topic and continued development of all preceding points will bring greater confidence, the most important factor is overcoming nervous tension.

Continuity should be easily understood and expected by speaker and audience. If all notes and sources of resource material are properly organized, the sequence of details in the final script will also be correct. Pauses and emphasis when properly used serve to break the monotony of a straight reading. You should pause momentarily following each complete phrase. When a speaker wishes to impress upon the minds of his listeners a particular word or phrase, he must emphasize it, just as a writer may use italics.

Personal appearance and presentation are important. The speaker should be dressed comfortably and neatly. Do not begin to speak until you are properly facing the audience. You should have the necessary silence and your notes in place. Stand up. Do not lean on the table, lectern or your elbow. Thank the person who has made the introduction, address the president and/or chairman and your audience. Clearly state the title of your speech.

(Continued page 12)

## A BICENTENNIAL GUIDE TO PHILADELPHIA

By Lofry Kiesling (R-183)



Many of you will be visiting the Philadelphia area this summer, and for a good reason. There will be plenty to see and to do!

The very first stop you should make is at the Tourist Center, located at 16th and J.F.

Kennedy Blvd. Countless pamphlets, updates on current events, and special programs brochures are available. A look at these quickly reveals the hundreds of activities taking place in the area. Following are the highlights, arranged by the area of interest.

Two musts for any numismatist are the Philadelphia Mint (5th & Arch Streets) and the Franklin Mint. The famous Eliasberg Collection will be on display at the U.S. Mint, and the public tour (no charge) is a very interesting one. Hours are 9 - 3:30 weekdays. Tours are also offered at the Franklin Mint, the world's largest private mint. For more information on that, write to the Franklin Mint, Franklin Center, Pa. 19091.

As for the city, an overall view of Philadelphia that is unmatched is the one from City Hall Tower in center city. The city abounds in historical sites, too. A Visitors Headquarters is located at 313 Walnut Street. Nearby is Carpenters' Hall, where the First Continental Congress met. Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell are at 5th & Market Streets. Tours of the park are provided as a Bicentennial service.

The best way to see all of the important historical sites, as well as the city's other attractions is to use the Philadelphia SFPTA Cultural Loop Bus. For \$1, you receive a pass that is good for the entire day. The Loop runs continuously, and you get on and off wherever you please, spend as much time as you want at that particular place, and then board the next bus. It covers the historical area well, and provides an opportunity to visit other places of interest such as the Franklin Institute, the Philadelphia Zoo, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and much more.

Special Bicentennial attractions include the new Living History Center (6th & Race Sts.), a montage of exhibits and a 48-minute film of our nation's development. Strawbridge & Clothier, a large department-type store is sponsoring a Colonial Village Exhibit. "Design for Fun" is a future-oriented museum/exhibit at the Civic Center, 34th & Civic Center Blvd.

Other things to do include Hersheypark, which is within driving distance of the metropolitan region; Longwood gardens near West Chester, and Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

## PRIVATE GOLD COINAGE OF THE WEST (1848 - 1854)

By Ted Mack (R-229)



This story really begins on a sleepy January morning at the sight of a sawmill being built on the south fork of the American River in California. John Marshall's "cry of gold" set the stage for one of the greatest migrations in American history. Whole families packed up their belongings and went off to the gold fields. Along with the adventurers and prospectors came a need for coins to be used in everyday transactions.

Since California did not have a branch of the U.S. Mint in 1848, all coins had to be shipped from Philadelphia either around South America or by stagecoaches overland. Both of these routes were dangerous and it took an extremely long time to reach their destinations.

The situation became critical because the U.S. Customs House would only accept silver or gold coins. Supplies were stuck on ships all along the California coast waiting with their cargoes on board because they did not have the coins necessary to pay the duties.

People began to hoard coins for their own needs. This created a severe shortage of circulating coinage. Many people would pay a higher price in gold dust rather than part with their precious coins. All sorts of foreign coins were used, especially the French 5-franc piece. This coin had an intrinsic value of 93¢, but was readily accepted at a value of \$1.

The great shortage of coins prompted speculators to get into the act. They would go to a foreign port with their gold dust and buy up all the coins they could get. The coins were then sent to San Francisco where they could be sold for well over face value.

In June of 1848, Governor Mason of California told the Customs House to accept gold dust at the rate of \$16 an ounce. This order was revoked soon after it was issued because of a federal law stating that Custom Duties "must be paid in coin."

On July 28, 1848 Governor Mason gave authorization for gold to be privately coined. He also told the Customs House to accept gold at its intrinsic value. Mason's new orders were declared void because they conflicted with an Act of Congress. But it was too late to stop now. The private gold issues were welcomed by merchants. In the first few months of 1849 the coins began to circulate.  
(Continued next page)

## THE GOLD STANDARD OF THE WEST

### Government Decisions

Many companies sprung up and tried to tap the gold for coins. During the later months of 1850 the coins were really beginning to circulate. Because of the great number of companies putting out these coins, there are great variations in the size, edges, and metal content of the coins. Many people distrusted coins that didn't bear the weight and fineness stamped on them. On later issues these coins were given the coins and bars. This eliminated much confusion and distrust.

Because of the various gold coin variations and as the foreign coins came in, the need was apparent. By 1852 only two firms, Hoffer & Co., and left out of the many that began in 1850. In 1854, 5 more firms were founded. These three firms are all that were left to regulate the gold in California. Later, the State Assay Office was founded to give California a state regulating agency for gold coins.

In April of 1852, the California Legislature created the post of State Assayer and this was the first one to be appointed to the new post. The State Assayer's office arrived the following month before the U. S. Assay Office took over. During the two months, the office weighed dust and nuggets and made them into small bars. The bars are stamped with the exact value, weight, and fineness. The letters "T. A. S.", the date of weighing, and the State Assayer's initials were punched on the face of the bars. The initials stand for and represent, the State Assayer's "sign".

Though many bars were made, there are only a few around today. Some people believe that the State Assay Office was illegal because the Constitution forbids states to coin their own money. Before much could be said, California got a U. S. Assay Office and the State Assay Office was closed.

The reason California remained with U. S. Assay Office was because of a deal made in 1852. A California firm intended to have a branch Mine established in California when the Big Barred, California got a U. S. Assay Office.

After California was given, the Secretary of the Treasury drew up a contract for the operation of the assay office. The contract was given to Hoffer & Co. and Augustus Humbert, the "final and last" to be sent out to California to be the U. S. Assayer. It was the assayer's responsibility to watch over the refining and stamping of the coins and bars on the "Frisch's bar".

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## PRIVATE GOLD COINAGE OF THE WEST (Continued)

On January 21, 1851 the first of the \$50 octagonal gold pieces was struck at Moffat & Co. The dies for the \$50 piece had been brought from New York City and were made by C. C. Wright. The obverse of the \$50 piece has a large eagle in the center of its design with the words "United States of America" around it. Over the eagle are the words "857 Thous." which stands for the fineness of the gold. The bottom part of the design contains "50 Dol."

The main feature on the reverse is the number "50" in the center of the coin. From this center many lines radiate out. This kind of design is called "engine turning." It was intended to make the coins more pleasing in general appearance.

The same kind of dies were used to strike the \$100.00 and \$200.00 coins, too. The only difference is that the "50" on the obverse and reverse was eliminated. The size of the larger denominations remained the same as the \$50 piece. The larger denominations were made thicker. Bars of \$500 and \$1,000 were also stamped with \$50 type of dies.

After the gold pieces were struck, a controversy raged over the legal status of the coins. In the opinion of many public officials and lawyers, the coins should be accepted as legal tender. They backed this up with the facts that the coins bore the stamp of the U.S. Government and were issued by an Act of Congress.

The Director of the Mint, George N. Eckert, took a different view of the situation. He believed that though Augustus Humbert had been authorized to put the government stamp on gold bars, this did not make the bars legal tender, and the government did not have to accept or redeem any of them.

The \$50 gold piece became unpopular. Storekeepers didn't want the pieces because they were not accepted anywhere except in California. Even in California, they could not be used to pay Custom's dues. Most storekeepers slapped on a 1% premium to exchange one of the gold coins.

There was a great need for gold coins in denominations lower than \$50. Many people clamored for another issue of private coinage in denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$20. Many influential citizens petitioned Moffat & Co. to make an issue of \$300,000 in lower denomination coins. Officials of Moffat & Co. wrestled with the problem. In January of 1852 Moffat & Co. was forced to mint the coins because of competition from the firm of Wess, Hollister, and Co.

(Continued next page)

### DISPLAY AD RATES:

PAGE	\$2.00
1/2 PAGE	\$1.00
1/4 PAGE	.65
3/4 PAGE	\$1.50

San Francisco Mint, San Francisco, California  
dated August 18, 1854.

After negotiations, the Mint director, ... and Treasuror issued the green coins, the Treasury Department gave the firm orders to熔铸 two coins value \$10 and \$20 dollars in the name of the U.S. Assay Office. When the Treasury Department finally consented to the lower the premium rates, Shaffer & Co. stopped making the green coins.

Two new coins were issued in October of 1854. These coins had a design similar to the 1853 gold coins with a date across the center. The date read the inscription "Aug 1854" (August United States Assay Office, San Francisco, 1854). On the reverse was an eagle similar to the one on the 1853 gold coin. Below the eagle were the words "United States of America" and the motto "E Pluribus Unum".

The Assay office continued to burnish coins until 1854 when California was finally awarded a branch Mint. After much lobbying to Congress, the Mint was finally passed. One demand was that the Mint was to locate, "Carlsbad and Folsom" of the U.S. Assay Office in California.

On April 18, 1854 the first coins were struck in the new Mint. They were \$10 gold pieces. They have the same design as the pieces coming from the other Mints, except for the addition of the "SF" monogram. With the establishment of the Mint in California, most of the minting problems were solved.

#### HOW TO PREPARE AND DELIVER A COIN TALK (Continued)

What is the best length for a talk? Well, this is a very difficult reply to the odd question, "What is the best length for a talk as a general rule?" It is not enough to be interesting, but long enough to cover the subject. The average speaker will find about 30-45 minutes to be suitable the attention of the audience for more than 15 or 18 voices. However, a talk should without be overbearing or too wordy... but informative and positive information be planned to make the lines clear.

If possible, always maintain eye contact with your audience. Now relate something from outside the context with your subject, starting from 1 to 10 or 15 other points. You can then attempt to measure which one has influenced you.

The best topic that you may choose will be David, you can find of collecting. Start with your notes, with information and your advertising available to that talk... and good luck to you!

INKSPOT ADS BRING RESULTS

THE FIRST COINS ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES MINT

By Alice Boyce (R-152)

On April 2, 1792 a bill was passed that established the first United States Mint, and the denominations and compositions of the coins to be minted. Five days later, David Rittenhouse was appointed as the Mint's Director. During the last few months of 1792, the Mint struck several patterns in very small quantities. This article is about these scarce and unusual pattern coins.

The first U.S. Mint was in Philadelphia. The Mint's construction was completed by mid-September of 1792. Production of the first pattern coins began before the Mint was opened. The first U.S. pattern, the half-dime, was struck in July of 1792 in an out building on the mint's property. The dies for the coins were designed by Robert Birch. The coins were struck at President Washington's request from silver he had donated.

The obverse features a portrait of Liberty (who was thought to be a likeness of Martha Washington). Starting from the top, moving along the edge of the coin's obverse is the legend "Liberty, Parent of Science and Industry." Just below the head is the date, 1792.

On the reverse is an eagle. Below the eagle is the denomination, "half-dime." "United States of America" is along the edge.

The silver half-dime weighs 20.6 grains and is composed of .892 fine silver. Fifteen hundred pieces were struck. According to the 1977 Red Book, the 1792 half-dime is valued at \$1,200, \$7,500, and \$4500 in good, fine, and very fine conditions, respectively. One copper half-dime is also known, making it unique.

Adam Eckfeldt designed the 1793 dime, which is similar to the half-dime in design. The obverse has a slightly different Liberty head, but the same legend and date as the half-dime. The reverse is identical with the exception of "dime" in the place of "half-dime." The silver dime weighs 41.6 grains.

There are only three known specimens of the 1793 dime. The coin was also struck in copper, and surprisingly there are twelve known specimens, four times as many as the silver dimes. The varieties of the 1793 copper dime exist. Two of the dimes have reeded edges, and ten dimes have plain edges.

The next coin is both unusual in appearance and name. It is called the 1792 silver cent. This coin was the first to be actually struck at the Philadelphia Mint. Designed by Henry Voigt, the coin is quite smaller than the size of the U.S. Large cent.

THE 1792 DOLLAR AND THE 1793 DOLLAR

(Continued)

and a very "big" oval reverse side (Fig. 1). The size of the obverse "plug" was 3/4 of a cent, with the upper words "LIBERTY" and "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and the portrait of George Washington, and the date "1792" on the reverse. The reverse had a "small" oval with the words "One Dollar" on the reverse (the "small" oval is approximately 1/4 the size of the "big" oval), and the words "United States of America" around the portrait of George Washington. There are eight known silver dollar coins, and the reverse "small" oval is always a mirror, also see below.

THE 1792 DOLLAR AND THE 1793 DOLLAR

The 1792 coin was also designed by Wright, though it is somewhat larger than the Large cent. The obverse has a portrait of George Washington's design on the left, and "LIBERTY" on the right, separated by a vertical line. The date and legend are on the same place as the other coins. The reverse has the words "One Dollar" and "United States of America" like the Large (G. W. 3c. in green - 1/4 size). (This is the coin owned by George Washington, President.) The obverse is copper and weighed 3.66 grams. The reverse is copper and weighed 3.66 grams. (The reverse of the 1792 pattern is silver, specimen of the type introduced, and the reverse of the 1793 is silver, G. W. 3c. also.)

There is one more 1792 pattern. It is a "small" coin, called the Wright pattern, designed by George Wright. The Wright pattern is called "small" because it is the same size as the other patterns of 1792. The reverse has a portrait of George Washington "LIBERTY" on the top, and a large oval, enclosed in the portrait design, is a "small" oval with the words "United States of America" along the edge. The reverse is copper and the date is unknown. With a total of three known, though the reverse of the 1792 pattern is silver, the reverse of the Wright 1792 pattern, also - silver, is also "United States of America".

MEMBERS: The members of F.R.E. advertising in The Inkspot Mailbox department of The Inkspot El Dorado County Newsletter, 807 S. D St., Dr. L.A. Calif. 90006.

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

## COIN DETECTING

By Alton (De) Butler (K-36)

If any of you are starting to get the coin hunting bug, I may be able to give you a few tips. I had wanted to buy a metal detector for a long time but didn't feel it was worth the money or the price tag. After talking with coin dealers and "newers" for over two years, the consensus of over 90% of them was that the Metaltech Model 110 (\$149.00 retail, Metaltech, Mountain View, California) is one of the best, if not the best - for some. It has a full one year guarantee, and I've been told that a used Metaltech will sell quickly at close to the original retail price, if you find you don't have time, after all. This is important to consider. I am not saying that the other brands are not good - I don't know. Whatever brand you finally buy, check it out very thoroughly. Spend a little time before you spend your dollars.

After you have shopped around and decided on a detector, I would suggest a few more inexpensive tools. A simple garden spade, or Army entrenching tool, is ideal for the kind of digging you will be doing. Also, I would recommend a tie-around - your wallet or money or a mail pouch; which is great for sorting out your finds. Any litter or other useless items can be stashed in the pouch and thrown away when you're finished. In this way, not only are you hopefully finding something valuable for yourself - you are also performing a valuable service by helping clean up this country. I think this is the least we can do.

It is very important not to get impatient and frustrated if you don't find anything of value the first couple of tries. To keep this from happening, it is important to pick your digging sites as selectively as possible. Once you have become familiar with your machine, if you happen to live near the ocean and don't have much time, a well-traveled public beach is one of the best places to start! Beaches get the most use generally on weekends and holidays, so the best time to search is right after them. Start in the late afternoon or early morning, and you will disturb the fewest people. Odds are low, you won't find any old coins, but you can find recent issues, and possibly a bottle or two (along with a lot of foil and bottle tops). Beaches take the least time to dig because the metal items are seldom deep, and sand is very easy to sift through.

For those of you more interested in coins, relics, and history, the pickings will come this quickly. I have been told by several old-time coin shooters that the Cherokees are good at finding old coins near almost any old buildings. If you know of any nearby - and this is very important - you should get the owner's permission first, for your own protection. If you don't know who that is offhand, check your local county or city office, recorder, etc. Your local government keeps records of all deeds with the owner's addresses. To check this takes a little time, but can save you from being charged with breaking or trespassing.  
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued)

Another tip. After a rain is the best time to search fields and woods because the leaves and grass are rooted down and your metal detector can get as close to the ground as possible. In my home state of Virginia, many diggers have found Civil War relics in this way.

Once you find a coin, don't automatically move on to a different spot. Check out the area near the coin carefully, because, of the coins I've found, many have been in groups of two or three together. If you are digging in a neighbor's yard or garden, it is important to pinpoint your hidden object carefully by using the sound emitted by your metal detector. Once you are directly over the object, cut a plug of sod out, and then dig. When the piece of metal has been found, replace the plug carefully. In this way, few people can complain about your treatment of their lawns.

A word of caution on the care of your metal detector. Keep the detector's electrical connections away from water, as much as possible, and disconnect the headphones when not in use. This will keep the battery from wearing down too soon.

My closing remarks lead us back to where we began - TRY TO BE PATIENT! Make sure that the time you spend detecting is truly spare time - so that if you come up empty-handed, you won't feel as though you've wasted your time. (So far, I've found nineteen coins, all recent, and a lot of beer can tops!) You may not come up with much, but then again, you never know.

#### COINS FOR SALE

##### Ch. Unc. Lincoln Cents

	P	D	S
959	.05	.05	---
960	.05	---	---
961	.05	.05	---
962	.05	.05	---
965	.10	---	---
966	.10	---	---
967	.10	---	---
968	.07	---	---
969	.15	---	---
973	.04	.05	.06
974	.04	.04	.07
975	.04	---	---
909	.....	.....	\$5.65
953-D, '54-D...	15@		
954, '55-S...	30@		
Proof Cents			
53, 63, 64, ...	55@		
70-S, ...	50		
71-S, 71-S, ...	45@		
75-S, ...	11.40		

##### Proof Nickels

1964 slight tone	.50
1970-S.....	.55
1976-S frosted	\$3.15

##### Jefferson Nickels

1939 AU	.35
1940 BU	.45
1940 AU	.25
1959, 72 BU	.10@

##### Mercury Dimes

1916 Ch. BU	\$20.00
1917-D AG	.65

##### Proof Dimes

1950 slight tone	12@ .00
1970-S.....	\$2.00

1976-S .....	\$2.15
--------------	--------

##### Halves

Kennedy Half Set, Ch.	
Unc. 1964PD-1976P.	

Excludes scarce 1970D.	
All in Whitman folders	

##### 1970-S Proof \$6.00

##### 1976-S Proof \$2.40

##### Bicentennial Coins - BU

##### Quarter (P Only) .35

##### Half (P Only) .65

##### Dollar (P Only) \$1.25

##### Clad Dollar

##### 1976-S Type II Proof

\$2.90

##### Circulated Lincoln Cents (VG-VF)

05@; 5 for .20; 10 for .35

1930, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40PDS.

41PDS, 42PD, 44PDS, 45PDS, 46PDS,

47PD, 48PDS, 49PD, 50PDS, 51PDS, 52PDS

53PDS, 54PDS, 55PD, 56PD, 57PD, 58PD

\*\*\*\*\*

##### ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

Please add at least 35¢ for postage on all orders. Any extra will be refunded. Of course, no returns. A full 14 day return privilege on all orders. You need no reason for a full refund.

STEVE KOENIG  
67 PARK AVE.  
White Plains, NY  
10603

## TOKENS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

By George Cuhaj (E-264)

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, of which the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) is a division, is the last step of a stairway which began with the Interborough Rapid Transit Company (IRT) and Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Corporation (BMT). The IRT and BMT merged with the publicly owned Independent System (IND) in 1940 to form the New York City Transit System (NYCT). The NYCT was owned by the City of New York until 1953, when the privately owned NYCTA took control. The NYCTA lasted until 1970, when the MTA took over.

Now we will examine the tokens issued by these companies. The IND and BMT issued no tokens as private companies. In 1928, with the anticipation of a 7¢ fare, the IRT had three firms strike two million tokens which were never used. These tokens are solid, 22mm in diameter, and made of white metal. The obverse has the initials "IRT" in a circle with "Interborough Rapid Transit Co." around "IRT." The reverse has "Good for one fare" around "IRT".

In 1940, when the city unified the three lines, there were no passage ways connecting the lines. To relieve this problem, the system issued a 22mm white metal token that was good for a transfer. These were used for 2-3 years and are rare today.

When the City of New York sold the system to a private firm (NYCTA) on March 23, 1953, new tokens were issued. The tokens were issued in brass, 16mm in diameter, and minted by three firms. On the obverse is "New York City Transit Authority" around "NYC" with the "Y" cut-out. The reverse has "Good for one fare" around "NYC." There are three varieties of this token:

- a) "Y" not cut-out and a plain "G" in "Good for,"  
The token has the following geometric design:  

- b) Same as "a", but with a punched out "Y",  

- c) An arrow in the "G" and the following geometric design:  


All of the tokens have 6 points of the geometric design touching the rim.

It was my pleasure to meet the designer of the 16mm token. His name is Louis Goldnadel and he is 70 years old. This is his story on how he was selected.

(Continued page 12)

Tokens of the City of New York  
 (Continued)

"Before I started to work for the TA in the 30's, I was a type face designer. Since this was on my record, every now and then I was asked to do various jobs for the TA with posters, maps, and the like. So one day in January '53, when the Transit Authority was in the planning stages, I was given a list of specifications and a bunch of tokens from various cities. From the specifications, I combined various parts of the tokens to form the 16mm one."

When in 1973 the fare rose to 35¢, the Authority issued a 22mm token in brass. The 22mm token has the same general design with the geometrics of Type 2 and the stencil cut "Y." Varieties occur in the words "Good for". The first has thin letters and a regular "G". The second has thick letters and regular "G". The third has thick letters with an arrowed "G". The 22mm tokens are currently in use with the 50¢ fare.

If you need any information on tokens you have, just send a clear rubbing with the legends spelled out separately and I will be glad to help you. George Cuhaj,  
 31-50 33 St., Long Island City, N.Y. 11106

TRENDS \*\*\*\*\* TRENDS \*\*\*\*\* TRENDS \*\*\*\*\* TRENDS \*\*\*\*\* TRENDS \*\*\*\*\* TRENDS \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\* INDIAN HEAD CENTS \*\*\*\*\*

YEAR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	FINE	VERY FINE	EXTRA FINE
1859	2.50	5.00	5.00	11.50	29.00
1860	2.55	3.20	4.40	6.50	13.00
1861	5.75	6.50	11.35	14.50	20.00
1862	2.25	2.75	3.60	5.25	12.50
1863	2.00	2.50	3.25	4.50	12.25
1864 CN	4.00	4.50	8.00	12.50	18.00
1864 BR	1.35	2.10	4.50	8.50	13.50
1864 "L"	10.00	18.00	32.50	47.00	70.50
1865	1.50	2.40	4.50	8.50	13.00
1866-68	9.50	12.00	19.50	27.50	42.50
1869	15.50	19.50	42.40	55.25	90.00
1870	11.75	16.50	32.50	42.50	66.00
1871	16.00	20.25	43.00	52.50	71.00
1872	22.50	25.00	45.00	66.50	76.00
1873-75	4.00	5.50	10.50	15.50	27.00
1876	6.25	7.50	15.00	17.25	36.00
1877	95.00	106.00	180.00	235.00	320.00
1878	6.50	8.00	15.00	22.50	35.00
1879	1.25	1.65	5.75	8.00	11.50
1880-83	65	1.00	2.00	3.50	7.75

(Continued page 19)

THE NEVADA BICENTENNIAL MEDAL

By Steven Magrino (R-212)

The Nevada Bicentennial Medal is truly unique. It is the only official medal to be struck on a restored Carson City Mint press in the old Mint itself. The medal, which was put into production on August 7, 1975, is being struck on a press which first struck 1870 "CC" dollars on February 11, 1870. The mint press is now in the custody of the Nevada State Museum, which is located in the old Mint.

Nevada's medal is also unique in that it is being made in four metals, with all medals being struck from native Nevada ore donated by the Nevada Mining Association. The metals included are bronze, copper, silver, and gold.

Nevada was the only state to produce a Centennial medal in 1876, and because of this, it is the only state which "is produce an official 1876 Centennial design and the 1976 Bicentennial logo," according to Commission Chairman Vicki Nash. The reverse uses the 1876 die featuring the Seal of Justice, the shape of Nevada, and a crossed rifle and arrow. The 1976 obverse depicts a pioneer with crossed pack and shovel, and mountains in the background.

The medal is selling for \$320 in gold, \$25 in silver, \$5 in copper, and \$2 in bronze. The lower priced medals are offered so "everyone is able to participate in the association," according to Mrs. Nash. It does look like everyone wants to participate, too. In the first 10 weeks of sale a total of \$34,479 worth of medals were sold.

Nevada's senators think that Nevada still needs to be more unique and so they introduced a bill, S. 2039, which would declare "any Bicentennial medallion struck by or for the state of Nevada to be a 'commemorative medallion'." Maybe this is only fitting since Nevada was the only state to issue an official medal for our country's bicentennial. The bill was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To order your Nevada Bicentennial Medal, include a dollar for handling, write to: National Bank of Nevada, P.O. Box 1976, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

TRENDS (Continued)

1984	1.15	1.90	3.95	6.00	9.50
1985	2.25	3.95	4.25	9.75	17.50
1986	1.25	2.35	3.95	5.95	12.50
1987-93	.60	.70	1.15	2.65	4.65
1994	.75	1.35	3.95	5.65	12.00
1995-00	.50	.60	1.00	2.50	4.65
1991-98	.50	.60	.90	1.76	3.95
1999	.60	.65	.90	1.90	4.75
1998-5	14.00	19.00	17.00	22.50	37.00
1999-5	59.00	62.00	69.00	82.50	103.00

## THE CONFEDERATE CENT OF 1861

BY MARVIN GORDON (R-259)

The story of the original C.S.A. cent began early in 1861 when the Confederacy contacted Bailey & Co., the well known Philadelphia jewelers, about coining on a contractual basis a supply of one cent pieces for the South. Bailey & Co. agreed to do this, and contracted Robert Lovett, Jr., a die sinker, to prepare patterns to be sent to the Southern leaders for their approval.

In 1860, Lovett had produced a current one cent size business token with the turbaned bust of Liberty (facing left) on the obverse. The reverse bore an advertisement. This beautiful Liberty design was deemed ideal for the use on the Confederate Cent. The date, 1861, and the words "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA" were placed on the obverse around the border.

The reverse has a wreath of cotton, sugar cane, and tobacco - all products of the South - enclosing the words "1 Cent." There is a cotton bale at the bottom, and on the lower right hand portion of the bale is Lovett's initial, "L." The borders on both sides are detailed.

After striking twelve pieces in copper-nickel, Lovett grew fearful that this assignment would be viewed as unlawful by the Union authorities, and on the advice of his wife, he hid the dies and cents in his cellar. Nevertheless, he must have been quite proud of his Confederate cents. Twelve years later he carried two of them as pocket pieces.

Sometime in 1873, Lovett accidentally spent one of the Confederate cents at a bar. Later on, Mr. John W. Haseltine was told by a gentleman that a bartender in West Philadelphia had a Confederate cent. Haseltine doubted it. Mr. J. Colvin Randall was told the story, too. Randall and Haseltine decided that if either of them obtained the coin, they would share in any profit.

Haseltine saw the bartender and purchased the coin from him. The bartender said he had received the coin in change over the bar.  
(Continued page 2)

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## The Confederate Cent of 1861

(Continued)

Haseltine examined the coin and recognized the head of Liberty as Lovett's work. He called on Lovett to get some info. on the coin, but Lovett always stuck to his story that he didn't make it until one day when he became a little careless.

One day, Lovett pulled out a box of Confederate cents, and, of course, Haseltine questioned him at once. Lovett said he formerly had twelve, but accidentally lost one. He told how he had received an order to make the coins. Haseltine purchased the dies and resulting coins from Lovett in 1871.

Haseltine and Randall made restrikes of the Confederate cent from the dies. They did not strike any of the cents in copper-nickel, but made seven restrikes in gold, twelve in silver, and fifty-five in copper. Their original intention was to strike five-hundred in copper, but after the fifty-fifth impression the collar burst and the dies were badly broken.

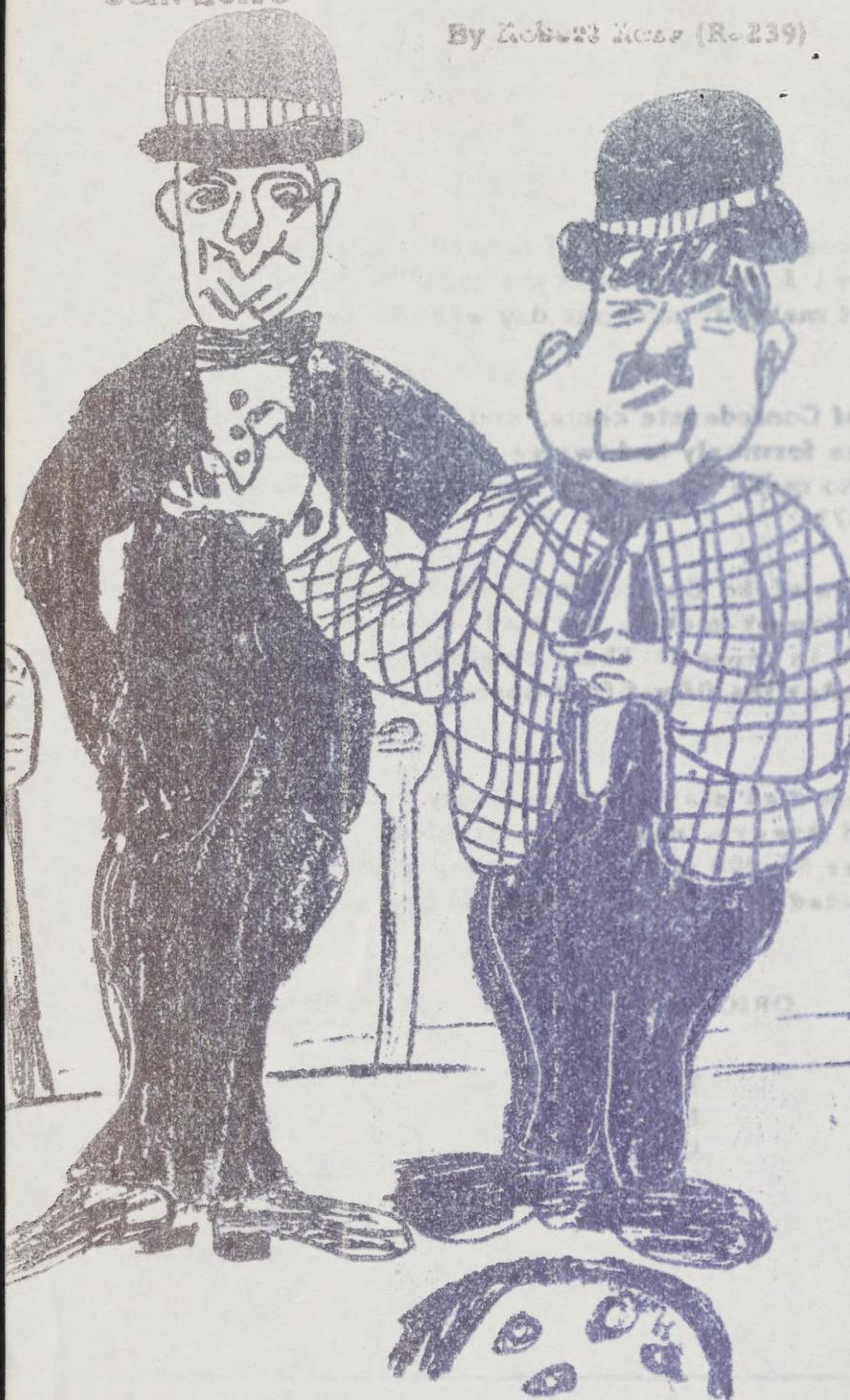
From Haseltine the Confederate cent dies passed successively to Judson Bremer, Virgil Brand, John J. Ford, Q. David Bowers, and Robert Bashlow. In 1962, Bashlow, using transfer dies, restruck over 60,000 pieces in bronze, goldine, platinum, and silver. The dies were then presented to the Mint Collection now at the Smithsonian Institute.

YEAR	DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL SELLING PRICE	MINTAGE
1861	Copper-nickel; original	\$20.00	12
1861	Gold; first restrike	\$30.00	7
1861	Silver; first restrike	\$15.00	12
1861	Copper; first restrike	\$4.00	55
1861	Goldine; second restrike		5,000
1861	Bronze; second restrike		55,000
1861	Silver; second restrike		
1861	Platinum; second restrike		

\*\*\*\*\*  
INKSPOT ADS BRING RESULTS  
\*\*\*\*\*

## COIN QUIPS

By Robert Ross (R-239)



"Gee Ollie, I didn't know your 1916 D dime would fit in the parking meter."

### DONATION TO CLUB

Albert Smith has donated a 1977 Red Book to the club's library. The new Red Book is available for club members use. Thank you Albert.

Another donation. Marvin Gordon has donated some notes to the club. Included in the notes are a 1928 Series B dollar, a 10¢ fractional currency, and an early bank note. Thank you Marvin.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CLASSIFIED ADS \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Political Campaign Pins wanted. Write giving description and selling price. Lorry Kiessling, 444 Edgehill Rd., North Hills, Pa. 19038

**SPECIAL!** New 1977 Red Book, \$3.95 retail only \$2.99 + 25¢ postage, or \$1 silver, or 160 wheats. Satisfaction guaranteed. Albert Smith, Box 1199-1, Elkins, W. Va. 24740

For you stamp collectors!! I have a steadily growing stock of U.S. and United Nations mint, never hinged stamps. Send 13¢ for my list. Steve Koenig, 47 Park Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10603

Many U.S. coins for sale. Send a SASE for list. Connie Sommerfeld, 4107 Don Diablo Dr., Los Angeles, Ca. 90008. I am also interested in buying uncirculated Indian head cents, and Civil War tokens, please write.

**RAFFLE CHANCES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON AN 1893 COLUMBIAN 50¢ (EF) and 55 FOREIGN COINS (none 1971 aluminum). RAFFLE CHANCES ARE 25¢ each or 5/\$1.00. All profits will be placed in the club's treasury. SEND YOUR ORDER NOW to Lorry Kiessling, 444 Edgehill Rd., North Hills, Pa. 19038.**

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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*  
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